

PRESS RELEASE

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that James Alphonse, 40, of Beloit, Wisconsin, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz to 150 months in federal prison, without parole, for distributing crack cocaine. Alphonse pleaded guilty to the charge on June 14, 2007.

Alphonse was arrested on March 29, 2007 after a 4½ hour standoff with law enforcement at a residence in Beloit. Officers finally located him in an attic crawl space using a thermal imaging device.

The charge against Alphonse was the result of an investigation conducted by the Rock County Safe Streets Task Force comprised of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the Drug Enforcement Administration; the Rock County Sheriff's Department; the Beloit Police Department; the Janesville Police Department; and the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau. To date, a total of 44 defendants have been convicted of federal drug and gun charges resulting from Task Force investigations.

The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Meredith Duchemin.

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